COORDINATING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAMPASAS RIVER WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

Final Report
TSSWCB Project # 14-07
Prepared by Texas A&M AgriLife Research

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AgriLife Extension	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
AgriLife Research	Texas A&M AgriLife Research
BMP	Best Management Practice
BRA	Brazos River Authority
CEU	Continuing Education Unit
CWA	Clean Water Act
DT	District Technician
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FY	Fiscal Year
KCCB	Keep Copperas Cove Beautiful
LSHS	Lone Star Healthy Streams
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
OSSF	On-Site Sewage Facility
Partnership	Lampasas River Watershed Partnership
QPR	Quarterly Progress Report
RFP	Request for Proposals
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation Districts
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TDA	Texas Department of Agriculture
TIAER	Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research
TSSWCB	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
TST	Texas Stream Team
TWON	Texas Well Owner Network
TWRI	Texas Water Resources Institute
TWS	Texas Watershed Stewards
WC	Watershed Coordinator
WPP	Watershed Protection Plan
WQMP	Water Quality Management Plan

INTRODUCTION

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Lampasas River watershed lies within the Brazos River Basin in Central Texas. The Lampasas River's headwaters are in eastern Mills County and flows southeast for 75 miles, passing through Hamilton, Lampasas, Burnet and Bell counties. In Bell County the river turns northeast and is dammed five miles southwest of Belton to form Stillhouse Hollow Lake. Stillhouse Hollow Lake is the primary drinking water supply for much of the surrounding area. The watershed encompasses 798,375 acres across Mills, Hamilton, Coryell, Lampasas, Burnet, Bell and Williamson Counties. The Lampasas River is primarily a rural watershed with few urban centers. The cities of Lampasas and Kempner are wholly within the watershed boundaries, while the cities of Copperas Cove and Killeen are only partially in the watershed.

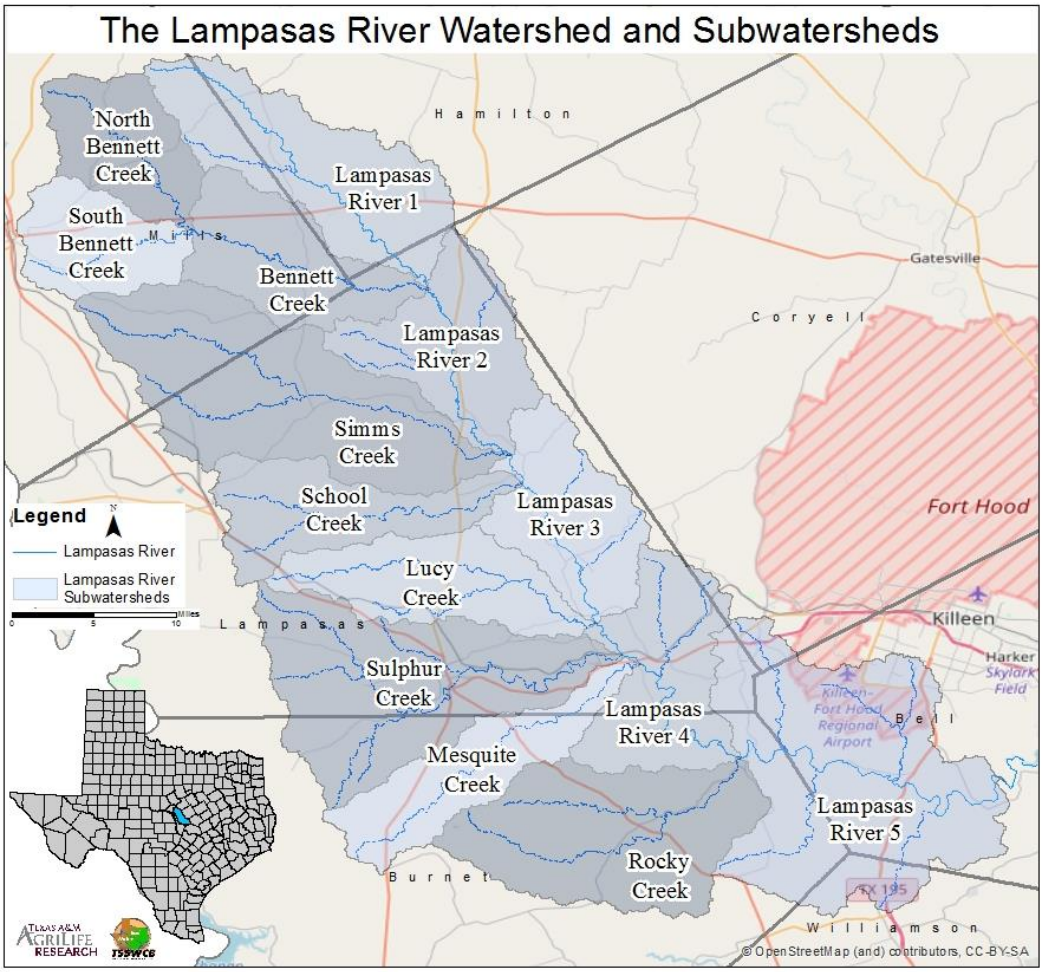

Figure 1 The Lampasas River watershed is a primarily rural watershed, located in Central Texas in the Brazos River basin.

The Lampasas River was originally listed on the 2002 303(d) List for elevated levels of bacteria and carried forward to subsequent lists in 2004, 2006 and 2008. Elevated bacteria levels are an indicator of fecal contamination from warm blooded animals and is a human health hazard. However, the Lampasas River was removed from the 2010 303(d) list.

Prior to the river's delisting Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife Research) and Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) established the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership (Partnership) in November 2009 as part of a Clean Water Act §319(h) (CWA) grant, TSSWCB project 07-11, "*Lampasas River Watershed Assessment and Protection Project*". Project 07-11 updated land use, modeled water quality, and developed a watershed protection plan (WPP) to holistically address the bacteria impairment. With technical assistance from AgriLife Research and other state and federal partners, the Partnership identified water quality issues that were of importance to the surrounding communities. The WPP identified responsible parties, implementation milestones and estimated financial costs for individual management measures and outreach and education activities. The plan also described the estimated load reductions expected from full implementation of all management measures. TSSWCB project 12-09*, "Coordinating Implementation of the Lampasas River Watershed Protection Plan"*, continued facilitation of the Lampasas River WPP and Partnership. TSSWCB project 14-07 continued the implementation of the education goals of the WPP and the facilitation of the Partnership.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Through this project AgriLife Research continued to work with cities, counties, local businesses, landowners, etc. and partner agencies such as the United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to facilitate implementation as outlined in the WPP. AgriLife Research assisted governmental and non-governmental organizations in the Lampasas River watershed with identification and acquisition of resources to enable WPP implementation.

The Watershed Coordinator (WC) continued coordinating the outreach and education outlined in the WPP to support public participation by private individuals and local officials in the implementation of the Lampasas River WPP. The watershed coordinator developed publications, such as a newsletters,

factsheets, and website content, to promote and communicate watershed pollution prevention efforts.

PROJECT GOALS

1. Facilitate the Partnership and foster coordinated assistance activities between the Cities, Counties, TSSWCB, local SWCDs, and NRCS by providing a presence in the Lampasas River watershed.
2. Conduct Partnership Steering Committee and Work Group meetings to provide updates on progress, seek stakeholder input and recommendations on needed activities, and encourage citizen participation.
3. Support and facilitate the Partnership in implementing management measures identified in the WPP to improve water quality, developing proposals to acquire funding for implementation of management measures, managing and tracking implementation projects as well as facilitating education programs in order to encourage adoption of best management practices (BMP).
4. Work with state and federal agencies, as appropriate, to bring technical and financial resources to the Lampasas River watershed.
5. Track and document implementation efforts to assess progress toward achieving milestones established in the WPP.
6. Coordinate and conduct water resources and related environmental outreach/education efforts across the watershed, by developing publications, website content to promote and communicate watershed efforts, and by organizing training programs.

PROJECT TASKS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TASK 1 – PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

The WC prepared and submitted quarterly progress reports (QPR) to TSSWCB. Conference calls and in person meetings with project cooperators and the TSSWCB Project Manager were held at least quarterly to discuss project deliverables, timelines, communications and budgets. The WC prepared and submitted workplan and budget amendments to TSSWCB as necessary. AgriLife Research also continued to host and maintain the project website (http://lampasasriver.org/) throughout the project. Meeting and workshop

announcements were placed on the website along with newsletters and other information relative to the Partnership.

TASK 2 – SUPPORT AND FACILITATION OF WPP IMPLEMENTATION

AgriLife Research continued to employ a WC to engage and facilitate the Partnership. The WC was responsible for the general oversight and coordination of all project activities, for the reporting requirements and directing educational activities. The WC also served as the primary conduit for interaction with landowners, citizens, and entities to facilitate the implementation of the WPP during this project.

PARTNERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE

AgriLife Research facilitated public participation and stakeholder involvement in the watershed planning process, specifically by coordinating meetings of the Partnership Steering Committee updates on progress to implement the WPP. These meetings also provided the opportunity to update the Partnership on the status of monitoring efforts, progress in identifying implementation funding, and movement towards sustaining and improving water quality. The WC also sought input and recommendations from the Partnership on needed activities during these meetings. Partnership Steering Committee meetings were held in Lampasas at the Lampasas County Farm Bureau building on May 21, 2015 (19 stakeholders in attendance), February 25, 2016 (20 stakeholders in attendance) and October 12, 2017 (19 stakeholders in attendance).

ACQUISITION OF FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES

The WC assisted governmental and non-governmental organizations in identification and acquisition of resources (financial and technical) to enable WPP implementation. AgriLife Research actively pursued funding opportunities with both TCEQ and TSSWCB and worked with partners to develop grant proposals. Below is synopsis of projects and proposals that were developed to facilitate the implementation of the WPP:

TSSWCB 13-09, "Surface Water Quality Monitoring to Support the Implementation of the Lampasas River Watershed Protection Plan" – This project provided surface water quality monitoring on a monthly basis at 5 mainstem river sites and 5 tributary sites over two years. AgriLife Research provided project management and the Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research (TIAER) collected field and laboratory data. Although the proposal for this project was developed

during the TSSWCB project 12-09 discussed earlier, the WC continued to provide oversight during TSSWCB 14-07.

TSSWCB 14-06, "Implementing Agricultural Nonpoint Source Components of the Lampasas River Watershed Protection Plan" – Through this project, Hill Country SWCD #534 provided technical assistance by supporting a full time District Technician (DT). The DT assisted landowners in applying for and obtaining financial incentives to aid in implementation of BMPs prescribed in Water Quality Management Plans (WQMPs). Through this project, a total of 16 WQMPs were developed and implemented on approximately 5,298 acres. Watershed producers received $78,064 in financial assistance to implement BMPs. Examples of the BMPs installed were Forage and Biomass Planting, Range Planting, Cross Fencing, Prescribed Grazing, and Brush Management. This project was developed through the earlier TSSWCB project 12-09 as well, however, the WC continued to assist Hill Country SWCD throughout the project.

TCEQ 17-70432, "Lampasas River Watershed Protection Plan Implementation – On-Site Sewage Facilities Database" – Through this project, AgriLife Research is developing a watershed-wide database with concise locations and details about the OSSFs in the watershed. The final geodatabase will facilitate the efficient use of funds in future on-site sewer facility (OSSF) remediation projects by identifying areas that have a high probability of OSSF failure.

TSSWCB 16-06, "Continuation of Surface Water Quality Monitoring to Support the Implementation of the Lampasas River Watershed Protection Plan" – This project continues the surface water quality sampling program that was initially done in TSSWCB project 13-09 in collaboration with TIAER.

TSSWCB 17-03, "Continued Implementation of Agricultural Nonpoint Source Components of the Lampasas River Watershed Protection Plan" – This proposal was submitted on behalf of Hill Country Soil and Water Conservation District to continue their current program (TSSWCB 14-06) an additional 3 years to offer landowners technical and financial resources. The project has $195,000 in financial assistance available to watershed producers to implement BMPs.

TSSWCB 17-05, "Continued Coordinating Implementation of the Lampasas River Watershed Protection Plan" – This project will allow AgriLife Research to continue to fund a full time WC as well as the educational programs that are outlined with in the WPP at the completion of this current project.

WEBSITE, NEWSLETTERS AND NEWS MEDIA

The WC maintained a stakeholder database of 767 people. The WC remained in contact through multiple newsletters and other emailed announcements over the course of the project. Formal newsletters were sent at the following times:

- November 2014
- May 2015
- July 2015
- September 2015
- February 2016
- March 2017
- October 2017

Press releases were also disseminated to local news outlets, through AgriLife Research's Facebook, TSSWCB and through AgriLife Today announcing meetings and educational programs. Meeting announcements were also placed on the AgriLife Research Facebook page.

AgriLife Research also continued to maintain the project website http://www.lampasasriver.org/that was developed as part of the initial project TSSWCB 07-11. The website serves as a public clearinghouse for all project and watershed related information. The website serves as a means to disseminate information to stakeholders and the general public. Agendas, news releases, presentations, newsletters are all posted to the website.

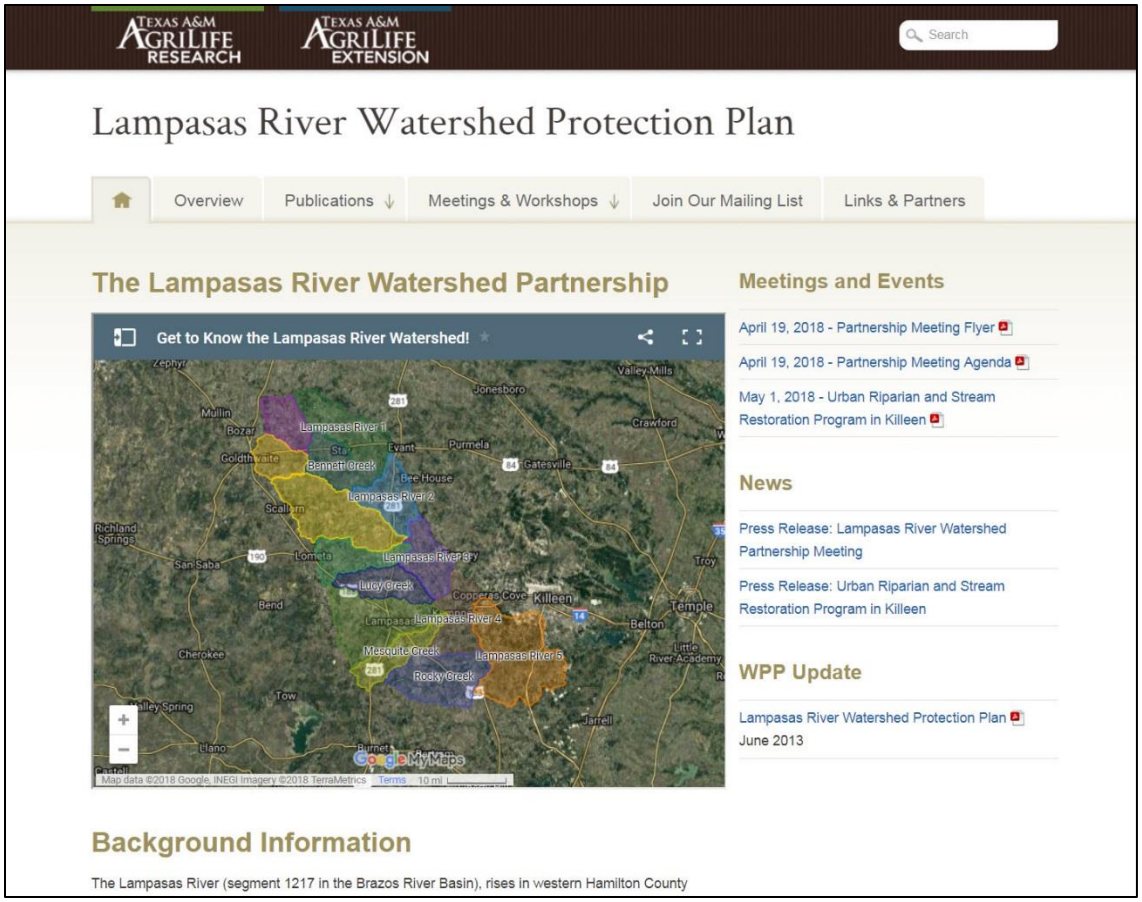

Figure 2 A screenshot of the project website, lampasasriver.org, taken in March 2018.

TASK 3 – OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Developing a culture of local watershed stewardship, though outreach and education, is an important component of a successful watershed protection plan. Stakeholders may or may not be aware of the impact that their daily lives make on the health of their watershed. It is crucial to create an awareness of the water quality issues that the Lampasas River watershed faces, as well as provide stakeholders the necessary tools to make informed decisions about their watershed. The WPP recommended outreach and educational opportunities that the stakeholders wanted to host within the watershed. These programs were chosen specifically because they would raise awareness of how daily actions can impact water quality and could increase good land stewardship by the participants. Subtask 3.2 of the workplan outlined the specific educational programs that were of interest to the Partnership at the time of proposal development in 2013. Most of these workshops were carried out as planned

although some changed in scope or the number offered. In some cases, such as the Aerobic System Operation and Maintenance Workshops for Homeowners, the workshop was completely cut from the program due to lack of interest or changes in agency personnel that made programmatic changes. Other programs that had more local interest were offered more than what was originally proposed, such as the Rainwater Harvesting for Homeowners workshop, which was offered three times, rather than the proposed one time. The following section includes a brief synopsis of the programs that were hosted in the watershed through this project.

LONE STAR HEALTHY STREAMS

With funding from the TSSWCB and the EPA through a CWA §319(h) grant, the goal of the Lone Star Healthy Streams (LSHS) program is the protection of Texas waterways from bacterial contamination originating from livestock operations and feral hogs that may pose a serious health risk to Texas citizens. To achieve this goal, the program's objective is the education of Texas farmers, ranchers, and landowners about proper grazing, feral hog management, and riparian area protection to reduce the levels of bacterial contamination in streams and rivers.

Figure 3 Lone Star Healthy Streams workshop held in Copperas Cove on July 29, 2015.

AgriLife Research coordinated with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension) to offer 2 Lone Star Healthy Streams workshops. The first was held on July 29, 2015 at the Copperas Cove ISD Administration Building. The program was attended by 13 stakeholders.

The second Lone Star Healthy Streams program was held on October 18, 2017 in Goldthwaite at the Mils County Community Center. The program was attended by 15 stakeholders. Both workshops included the LSHS modules for grazing cattle, horses, and feral hogs.

The WC coordinated with the AgriLife Extension County Agents (Coryell and Mills, respectively) to offer continuing education units (CEUs) for Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Private Pesticide Applicator license holders; 1 Rules and Regulations, 1 Integrated Pest Management and 1 General were available to participants.

HOMEOWNER'S MAINTENANCE OF SEPTIC SYSTEMS WORKSHOP

This course provided a basic understanding of the operational and maintenance activities of a conventional septic system, and explained how activities within the home impact septic systems. Presentations covered the treatment processes, health and safety considerations, and how to inspect and maintain the system. This course also provided answers to the most frequently asked septic system questions, including when to pump out a tank and what can or cannot go down the drain.

AgriLife Research coordinated with the Texas A&M University Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department and Mills County AgriLife Extension to host a Homeowners Maintenance of Septic System workshop on September 21, 2015 at the Mills County State Bank. The program was attended by 18 stakeholders.

RIPARIAN PROPER FUNCTIONING CONDITION WORKSHOP

AgriLife Research coordinated with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to offer a one-day Riparian Proper Functioning Condition Workshop at no cost to participants. The primary objective of this training is to develop a common vocabulary and understanding of riparian areas among people who work and manage the land. Workshops included a classroom portion as well as visiting streams in the field. Emphasis was placed on educating participants about functions provided by riparian areas, the role of riparian vegetation in

mitigating flooding and its impacts on water quality, assessing riparian health and available assistance for improving failing riparian areas.

The Partnership coordinated with Bell County AgriLife Extension Agents to offer TDA CEUs for licensed private pesticide applicators. The course provided one Rules and Regulations CEU, one Integrated Pest Management CEU and one General CEU. The workshop was held on June 11, 2015 at the Parrie Haynes Ranch in Killeen and was attended by 28 stakeholders.

RIPARIAN AND STREAM ECOSYSTEMS TRAINING

The WC coordinated with Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) to host a Riparian and Stream Ecosystems Training for landowners. This training focused on the nature and function of riparian zones, the benefits and direct economic impacts from ecological services of healthy riparian zones, best management practices for enhancing and protecting riparian zones, and technical and financial resources and incentives available for implementing riparian BMPs and riparian protection measures. This one-day training held on March 3, 2016 included indoor classroom presentations at the Lampasas County Farm Bureau and outdoor field sites and stream walks at the nearby Spivey Ranch. The workshop was attended by 49 participants.

Figure 4 Participants at the Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Training event pose for a group picture prior to breaking up into small groups at the field site along Sulphur Creek.

TEXAS WATERSHED STEWARDS

The Texas Watershed Steward (TWS) program is a statewide one-day educational program designed to improve the quality of Texas' water resources by educating and informing local stakeholders about their watershed, potential impairments, and steps that can be taken to help improve and protect water quality in their watershed. The program is sponsored by AgriLife Extension and the TSSWCB and made possible through a CWA §319(h) nonpoint source grant from the TSSWCB and the EPA. The goal of the TWS program is to promote healthy watersheds by increasing citizen awareness, understanding, and knowledge about the nature and function of watersheds, potential impairments, and watershed protection strategies.

A TWS program was held in Bell County on July 12, 2016 at the Texas A&M Central Texas Campus in Killeen. A total of 70 attendees signed in at the workshop. The WC presented a discussion of the implementation efforts being made in the Lampasas River Watershed for the Lampasas River WPP. The program was the subject of a front page article in the Killeen Daily Herald Newspaper, along with a large color picture of the Lampasas River.

RAINWATER HARVESTING WORKSHOPS

Rainwater harvesting is an innovative and efficient means of utilizing water. This process collects rainwater, stores it so it will be available when needed. Not only does rainwater harvesting help provide an additional source of water, it also helps mitigate contamination of surface water due to stormwater runoff by allowing the rainwater to be filtered more than it typically would if it just drained directly into the local waterways. Rainwater harvesting was identified by the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership as a way for homeowners to help improve water quality in Lampasas River watershed.

Three Rainwater Harvesting for Homeowners programs were hosted in conjunction with Keep Copperas Cove Beautiful (KCCB) as a joint effort between the Partnership, AgriLife Research, and AgriLife Extension. These workshops were held yearly at the Copperas Cove Library. Participation in the workshops was free, but attendees had the opportunity to build and take home a 55 gallon rain barrel for $50. At each workshop, KCCB sponsored $15 – $25 off the cost of the barrel for the first 25 participants.

- March 10, 2016
  - KCCB sponsored $25 of the cost of the first 25 barrels that were reserved by participants.
  - At total of 45 participants attended the workshop, with 40 of them building and taking home rain barrels.
- March 30, 2017
  - KCCB sponsored $15 of the cost of the first 25 barrels that were reserved by participants.
  - At total of 54 participants attended the workshop, with 34 of them building and taking home rain barrels.
- March 29, 2018
  - KCCB sponsored $25 of the cost of the first 25 barrels that were reserved by participants that had not received a discounted barrel at previous programs.
  - A total of 43 participants attended the workshop, with 25 of them building and taking home rain barrels.

Figure 5 Participants learned how to build their own rainwater harvesting barrel in Copperas Cove.

TEXAS WELL OWNER NETWORK AND WELL SCREENED EVENTS

The Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) program is an educational training coordinated by AgriLife Extension and made possible through a CWA §319(h) nonpoint source grant from the TSSWCB and EPA. The TWON program is for Texas residents who depend on household wells for their drinking water needs. It focuses on protecting ground water quality, aquifer integrity, and complements the successful Texas Watersheds Stewards program by emphasizing BMPs. AgriLife Extension offers voluntary private water well screening events and TWON trainings. As a result, participants have a better understanding of the relationships between practices in or near wells and the quality of water available for drinking and irrigation.

The Partnership hosted one Well Screened Session at two locations within the watershed. As part of the Well Screened Program, participants were able to bring water samples from private wells to be screened for common contaminants including fecal coliform bacteria, nitrates, arsenic and high salinity. Participants returned the following day to pick up results and attend a 1 hour workshop about how to interpret their results and practices to protect the quality of their private wells. The WC gave a presentation about the current efforts that are ongoing within the watershed. Screening events were held in Mills County at the Mills County Courthouse on March 7, 2017 and at the Lampasas County Farm Bureau Building on March 9. The Well Screened program was attended by 32 participants, and 87 samples were analyzed in Mills County, while the Lampasas County program had 62 participants and 102 samples submitted for private well screening tests.

FERAL HOG MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Feral hogs were identified as a primary concern by the Partnership due to their preferred habitation of riparian areas and are known to degrade water quality. Feral hog populations have grown dramatically in the state of Texas over the past 10 years and the Partnership expressed concern about how the rising population numbers would impact the local water quality if left unchecked. To answer the stakeholders' need for a better understanding of feral hog dynamics and control, the WC helped organize a Wild Pig Management Workshop on April 27, 2017 in Lampasas at the Grace Fellowship Church. Topics covered by AgriLife Extension included basic ecology and biology of the feral hog, regulations for transportation of feral hogs and disease concerns. Control and trapping techniques, along with hunting regulations and tips were also discussed.

The workshop was attended by 80 participants from the watershed and surrounding areas. Participants were offered three TDA CEUs for private pesticide applicator's license.

SOIL TESTING PROGRAM

Homeowners and agriculture producers within the Lampasas River Watershed were able to submit soil samples for a free analysis to help them determine the amount of nutrients in their soils. Proper nutrient amounts and placement help in the reduction of nonpoint source pollution into the Lampasas River and its tributaries. By being aware of the current condition of their soil, producers and homeowners know the correct rate to apply fertilizer. Applying fertilizer at the correct rate reduces nonpoint source pollution and improves water quality.

A total of 83 soil samples were submitted and analyzed through this program. Participants were invited to attend a 1-hour program on to learn to interpret their individual results. They also received guidance on selecting a fertilizer to meet the recommendations in their analysis.

OTHER WORKSHOPS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The WC supported, promoted, and participated in several field days, demonstrations, site tours, and education events sponsored by AgriLife Extension, NRCS, and/or SWCDs and other partners for the Lampasas River Watershed.

BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM

The Brazos River Authority (BRA) was created by the Texas Legislature in 1929 and was the first State agency in the United States created specifically for the purpose of developing and managing the water resources of an entire river basin. The BRA monitors water quality and pursues water conservation through public education through the Clean Rivers Program. The BRA holds annual meetings to review water quality activities in the basin. The WC participated in these annual CRP Steering Committee meetings, providing updates as requested in 2015, 2016, and 2017.

The WC also provided a list of monitoring activities to BRA to be included in the Brazos River Basin Annual Coordinated Monitoring and attended the planning meetings yearly at the BRA's Central Office in Waco.

BELL COUNTY WATER SYMPOSIUM

The Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District in Bell County holds an annual Water Symposium that is intended to share water related issues with the residents and decision makers of Bell County. Topics vary from year to year, but typically changes in climate predictions and state laws are at the top of the discussion list. The WC has participated in this event almost every year since the beginning of the WPP development in the Lampasas River watershed.

November 2015

The WC hosted an exhibitor's booth at the 15th Annual Bell County Water Symposium and spoke with various stakeholders about the implementation of the Lampasas River WPP on November 19, 2015. (The program was held at the Central Texas Council of Government offices in Belton and was attended by 150 people.

November 2016

The WC hosted an exhibitor's booth at the 16th Annual Water Symposium on November 16, 2016 at the Texas A&M Central Texas campus in Killeen. The WC spoke with many interested landowners from both within and outside of the watershed. The WC also presented during the Symposium, which included an update on the Lampasas River WPP as well as simple tasks that local homeowners and landowners can do to reduce their impact on nonpoint source pollution to symposium attendees. (The symposium was attended by 135 people.

November 2017

The WC hosted an exhibitor's booth at the 17th Annual Water Symposium on November 15, 2017 at the Texas A&M Central Texas campus in Killeen. The WC presented an update on the Partnership's activities to the group. The WC also hosted an exhibitor's booth where materials detailing the Partnership's activities in the Lampasas River watershed and the Watershed Protection Plan where handed out. The WC spoke with many interested landowners from both within and outside of the watershed. (The symposium was attended by 165 people.

BELL COUNTY CONSERVATION EXPO

The WC collaborated with Bell County AgriLife Extension Natural Resources Committee (formerly the Bell County Water Education Committee) to host the

Bell County Conservation Expo on September 21, 2017 at the Bell County Expo Center. Topics discussed included Soil Health, Plant ID, Riparian Management, Pond Management and other relevant topics. This Expo was open to the general public and approximately 90 people were in attendance. The WC also hosted an informational booth for the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership at this event in addition to announcing speakers.

ANNUAL MEETING OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS

This annual meeting provides Soil and Water Conservation District Directors, SWCD employees, and others the opportunity to examine issues relevant to the conservation of the State's natural resources. Speakers from the local, state, and national levels address attendees concerning a wide variety of agricultural and conservation topics. The WC attended the annual meeting in 2015, 2016, and 2017 in Corpus Christi, Waco, and Galveston, respectively. The WC was able to participate in sessions to learn about conservation efforts across the state in addition to hosting an exhibitor's booth detailing the efforts to develop and implement the Lampasas River WPP.

Figure 6 Exhibitor's booth at the Annual Meeting of SWCD Directors in Waco in October 2016.

FUTURE LAMPASAS RIVER WATERSHED ACTIVITIES

The WC position was extended another 3 years and is currently funded through September 2020 through TSSWCB project 17-05 *Coordinating Implementation of the Lampasas River Watershed Protection Plan*. The WC will continue to reach out to stakeholders and engage the public in the implementation process. The Lampasas River WPP stakeholder meetings will continue to be on an as needed basis. The WC will continue to attend SWCD board meetings and other meetings regularly, explore and obtain external funding to support watershed activities, maintain website and other forms of communication, and generally support all Lampasas River WPP implementation efforts by holding a variety of outreach and education events throughout the watershed.

The WC will continue to maintain a database of watershed stakeholders and interested parties for use in engaging the public in the watershed planning process. The stakeholder group represents a diverse cross section of Lampasas River landowners, citizens, local businesses, local and regional governmental entities and elected officials, state and federal agencies, and environmental and special interest groups.

Through the past and active projects in the watershed, progress has been made implementing BMPs and addressing NPS pollution from feral hogs and livestock. The Partnership expects to submit a proposal during TCEQ's next Request for Grant Applications cycle to address and remediate failing OSSFs in the watershed through repair and replacement of systems. The Partnership will also continue to seek funding for long term monitoring of surface water in the river and its tributaries to assess changes and trends in the watershed.

As the landscape within the watershed continues to change and the footprint of the urban areas expands, it is imperative to be proactive about water quality and conservation within the Lampasas River watershed. In addition, as agriculture producers must produce more with less resources, conservation and soil and water quality will remain a top priority and need within the area.

Although the Lampasas River WPP outlines a ten year timeline for full implementation; due to limitations in funding and resources, it is now expected to continue past the original expected endpoint of 2023.